TEACHING NOTES: BLACK TIGER

Written by Zhao Lihong Illustrated by Claudia Navarro Published by Little Steps Publishing

SYNOPSIS

Pedro is a curious little boy living in the heart of Mexico City. One day, he finds a lost puppy, scoops him up and takes him back home. Black Tiger, he



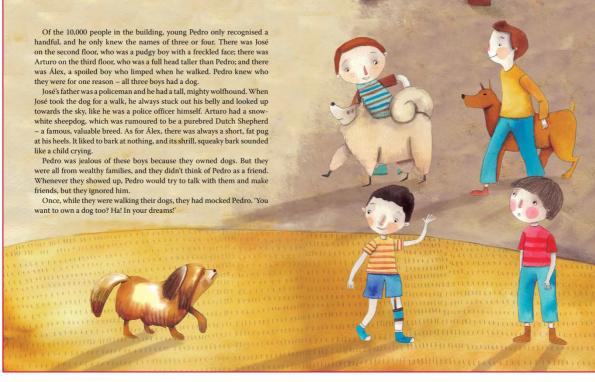
names the dog and hopes the puppy will turn out to be as brave as a tiger. In the same apartment block, live three other boys, José, Arturo and Alex, who, with their dogs, like nothing better than bullying Pedro and Black Tiger. When a powerful earthquake shakes the city, many are injured and José is nowhere to be found. Can Pedro find it in himself to overcome his hurt feelings and help save José? With Black Tiger leading the search, this story highlights the most precious things in life: Love and Understanding.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zhao Lihong is a famous writer in China. He is member of the Committee of the Chinese Writers' Association and President of the magazine *Shanghai Literature*. He also teaches in various universities. He has published more than 80 publications, many of which have been translated into different languages and published abroad. He has won a number of national and foreign literary awards, and many of his articles have been published in primary school textbooks.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in Mexico City, Claudia studied graphic design at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Her illustrations have been used in lots of children's books and she has worked with various publishing houses. She has made great achievements in the fields of animation, cultural communication and museum design in Mexico and abroad.

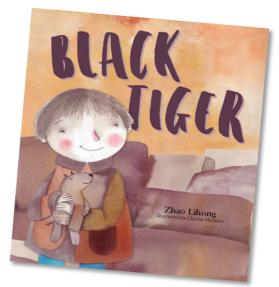




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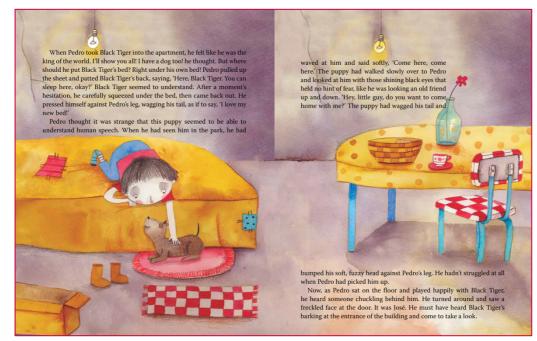
EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Black Tiger is based loosely on a true story about the devastating earthquake in Mexico City in 1985. This book tells the story of a strong connection between a stray dog, Black Tiger, and a little boy and how they cope with the earthquake that shakes their world apart. A heartfelt and moving tale which opens up discussions about friendship, diversity, empathy, natural disasters and bullying.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

- I. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
- 2. Ask the children if they've been to Mexico or know anything about the country.
- 3. Ask the children what they know about earthquakes. Have they heard of the earthquake that shook Mexico City in 1985? Discuss the effects and devastation of earthquakes on a city.
- 4. How does Pedro feel when he befriends Black Tiger and brings him home?
- 5. Why do you think Pedro is bullied by the other boys in the apartment building? Discuss the subject of bullying and how bullying should be dealt with.
- 6. When José goes missing in the earthquake, Pedro decides to help find him despite the fact that José used to bully him. What does this tell us about Pedro?
- 7. This book has a very sad but also uplifting ending. Black Tiger died saving others. Talk about how sometimes events can be sad and uplifting at the same time.
- 8. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?







WORDSEARCH ACTIVITY Find all the words below in the *Black Tiger* wordsearch

BLACK TIGER



APARTMENT BLACKTIGER EARTHQUAKE JOSE JUAN LOVE MEXICO PEDRO PUPPY UNDERSTANDING



WORDSEARCH SOLUTION

BLACK TIGER



APARTMENT BLACKTIGER EARTHQUAKE JOSE

JUAN LOVE MEXICO PEDRO PUPPY UNDERSTANDING



WRITE A POEM

Write an acrostic poem using the words, Black Tiger. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word. You could write about the characteristics of Black Tiger or about what happens in the story.



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DRAW A PICTURE Draw a picture of Pedro and Black Tiger.





